



## James Leslie Hardin

July 30, 1926 - November 1, 2022

James Hardin peacefully went to be with his Savior, Lord Jesus, at his home in Bartlesville, OK, November 1, 2022, at the age of 96. James was born in Claremore, Oklahoma on July 30, 1926, to James and Rose Hardin. He was the youngest of three boys, Warren, and Lloyd, both of whom predeceased him, as well as one daughter, Danelle Duvall, and two of his daughters in law, Nancy, and Karri Hardin.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Joan Hardin, to whom he was married for 74 years, and by his son, Thad & Lisa Hardin, Athens, TX; his son, Tim Hardin, Norman, OK; his son, James & Cera Hardin, Bakersfield, CA; his daughter, Rosemanne & Andy Park, Bartlesville, OK; his daughter, Ginger & Miller Cunningham, Dallas, TX; his daughter, Karynne Hardin, Bartlesville, OK; and his son, Will & Ronda Hardin of Dallas, TX. Additionally, James is survived by 34 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

James joined the Sea Bees in 1944, finishing his tour of duty in Okinawa, when WWII ended. Upon returning from the war, he graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK, with an undergraduate degree in Psychology, Literature and Theology.

While attending college, he began his first pastorate at Lone Elm Baptist Church, Claremore, OK for one year, riding his Harley Davidson back and forth. He married Mary, August 7, 1948, and they began pastoring Francis Baptist Church, Francis, OK for 3 years. He then, pastored 3 years at Choctaw Baptist Church, Choctaw OK. He then formed a new church who met in a former bar, and eventually began construction across the street. It became, Crest Baptist Church in Midwest City, OK where he pastored for 24 years. In 1979, they moved to Kansas where he served as pastor of Lone Cherry Baptist Church, Havana, Kansas, for 26 years. With the help of the members, he oversaw the construction of the new church buildings and facilities at both, Crest and Lone Cherry Baptist Churches. In December of 2018, they moved to Bartlesville, OK to Tallgrass Estates Retirement Village, where he became the resident pastor, delivering his final sermon, on Sunday, October 30, 2022. He loved shepherding his flocks.

Jim was also self-employed in the oil and gas exploration in Southeast Kansas for 43 years. The love of his life was his dear wife and his eight children. He loved having fun with them boating, golfing, fishing, crabbing, hunting, flying, selling an array of goods, camping and vacationing all over the country. He was an avid golfer and fierce competitor in any game or sport. He loved the sea and literature and art, and could fix most anything, living out his life by the Navy Sea Bee motto, "Can Do"! He was called Happy Jack in high school because of his jolly spirit and was just one of a kind!

Jim's family will receive friends on Sunday, from 3-5 p.m, at the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel, 918-333-7665, 4201 Nowata Rd, Bartlesville. Visitation will also be held on Sunday from 12-5. In Lieu of Flowers donations can be sent to "SOZO Coalition". You can give on the website, [www.sozocoalition.org](http://www.sozocoalition.org) or mail checks to P.O. Box 12213, Dallas, Texas, 75225. SOZO Coalition, which is led by one of James' daughters and her husband, is an alliance of individuals, families, and churches who have a shared desire to see all peoples rescued by the love of Jesus Christ. SOZO's mission is to see lasting, self-sustaining, holistic transformation in least reached communities and peoples across the earth. Please designate in memorial for James Leslie Hardin. Thank you.

Services will be held on Monday, at 10 a.m., at the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel. Interment will follow in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Claremore, Ok. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Cemetery

310 S. Nome Avenue  
Claremore, OK 74017

# Previous Events

## ALL DAY VISITATION

NOV 6. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel  
4201 Nowata Rd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-7665  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Family and Friends Gathering

NOV 6. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel  
4201 Nowata Rd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-7665  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Service

NOV 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel  
4201 Nowata Rd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-7665  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Leslie Hardin*



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**Davis Family Funeral Home** - November 04, 2022 at 07:09 PM

SL

*Like many we have a lot of great memories of Brother Jim Hardin. He married myself and Geneva almost 25 years ago this next June. One of my most fondest memories though is when Brother Jim gave the service at my fathers funeral. He stated one thing I have never forgotten and never will, "You can sure tell the difference when it is a Christian family that suffers a loss." God Bless You Brolyther Jim and Thank You.*

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**Sam and Geneva Loggan** - November 05, 2022 at 07:09 PM

TH

“ 1958 - 1969 . . . those were the years that "Bro. Jim" & his family impacted my life. I was in 2nd grade when we started attending "SE 29th Street Baptist Church", that was later renamed "Crest". I remember the membership voting for the new name. I made so many life-long friends there. Spring and fall retreats to Falls Creek, along with the summer week, were the highlight of those years. Bro. Jim was always right in the middle of it all. Sunbeams with Kitty Bourland; GA's with Josie Thomas, Sunday School, Training Union, Youth Sunday night fellowships after church, Vacation Bible School, Sweetheart Banquets and even an occasional Halloween party.

*How fortunate we were to grow up with so many Christian folks to "parent" us - it was our 'village'. The Burnetts, the Thomas', the Wrights, the Lightfoots, Ruby Stephens, Berneice Coburn, the two Rice families, the Tysons, the Provinces; and many more. I remember the revivals, with 'fill the pew' nights; Charlie Elmore comes to mind as one of the evangelists.*

*In June, 1969, Bro. Jim officiated at my wedding (although he was a "bit" late!) when I became Mrs. Roger Hughes - and we moved out of state.*

*What a legacy Bro. Jim has left in the lives of so many.*

*I will be forever grateful for the influence and friendship of the Hardin family during those years. - Twylah Phillips Hughes*

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**Twylah Phillips Hughes** - November 09, 2022 at 11:31 AM

PB

“ Because of Brother Jim's ministry and Will's testimony to others, I was introduced to the Lord and to Crest Baptist Church. As a result, I have spent the rest of my life in ministry. What a gift. There has been none greater in my entire life! The Hardin kids and Jim and Mary were always a real joy to be with. I learned so much joy and humility from being in your presence. Thank you for all the service and your example of what spirituality really is. Pam Gatewood Boyd

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**Pam Gatewood Boyd** - November 07, 2022 at 07:12 PM

BK

“ What a great man of God. We cannot say enough about the Hardin family. Loved him so much and all he did for God's Kingdom.

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**Bill and Gerie Kolb** - November 05, 2022 at 04:03 PM

DR

“ I don't think I could ever choose just one memory of Brother Jim! Being married to a preacher myself only deepens my appreciation of all the memories I cherish from Bro. Jim and his family when he took time for me, even being just a little girl. Some of my highlights include spending the night and getting to stay in the “princess room”, going golfing and being allowed to drive the golf cart, airplane rides and even allowed to steer, long sailboat rides because the wind stopped, church campouts, Friday night burgers, and a laugh I can never forget! He was a devoted pastor to all and made me feel so special. I can hear his voice calling me “Dawna Kabanna” like I was with him now.

Dawna Regis - November 04, 2022 at 09:53 PM

DB

“ I have so many memories of Brother Jim. He was my pastor for most of my childhood. However, the memory that stands out most in my mind is from my adulthood. My son was very ill and all signs pointed toward his death. I probably had not seen Brother Jim for nearly ten years because I had moved away to another state and he had retired from preaching at Lone Cherry. However, I still wanted Brother Jim to come to KC and pray for my boy. My dad got the message to Brother Jim and the eighty something year old man made the trip almost immediately. Today my boy is healthy and we will have a conversation tonight about putting others before ourself like Brother Jim did for my family. I will never forget that, and I will never forget one of the best teachers I have ever known, Brother Jim.

Daniel Bayless - November 04, 2022 at 02:40 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Leslie Hardin.



November 04, 2022 at 11:22 AM

RB

“ I was about 6 years old and my brother Charlie was about 7, when Brother Jim baptized us. We had to go to the Methodist church in Caney to do it because our Lone Cherry didn't have a baptismal at the time. I remember when he laid me back to dunked me under my feet flew up in the air lol but I came back up clean nonetheless. I also remember him and the boys coming to the brick building beside the post office to either get tools or fix stuff for their oil rigs. Missy, Charlie and I would ride our bikes from granny Loggan's house which was basically next door to the post office and talk with them awhile and maybe walk across the street to Kays grocery store to get a pop or candy. So many sweet memories. Love y'all.

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**Rebecca Brown** - November 04, 2022 at 09:54 AM